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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE

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25 March 1968

Prague Radio Wants Exchanges With VOA

Josef Camsky, head of the audience research department of Prague Radio's foreign service has requested an exchange of publications and close and regular contact to satisfy the interests of both VOA and Prague Radio. VOA is going to ask for details about the proposed exchange.

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COMMENT: Another first for Prague Radio, which has considerably loosened its self-censorship policies in recent weeks.

Belgrade and Bucharest Seek ICEM Membership

Both Yugoslavia and Rumania have approached the United Nation's Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) for membership, according to the U.S. Mission in Geneva.

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COMMENT: For sometime the Yugoslavs have not only sought methods to control emigration but also to gain legal status for Yugoslav nationals in foreign countries. Belgrade's current interest in ICEM appears to coincide with the pending initiation of an assisted migration program from Yugoslavia to Australia, which has been the subject of talks in Belgrade and Canberra in recent months. In addition, a Yugoslav delegation left for Bonn on 17 March to negotiate Belgrade's much sought after convention on social insurance, a contract on employment and an agreement on insurance in case of unemployment of Yugoslav workers employed in West Germany.

New East German Opera Based On Cuban Revolution

The East Germans may premier a new opera based on the Cuban revolution. Written by GDR composer Joachim Link and lyricist Horst Salomon, the opera "Juana" is scheduled to open in Gera on 28 March.

The opera does not depict any of the "erroneous theories" held by the Havana communists today, but is set in the period

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1958-59 at the time of the Batista overthrow. Nevertheless, the authors wanted to clear the libretto with party ideologist Kurt Hager before opening. From the East German view point, the delicate question is how to present the story without suggesting that Castro-style revolution is the only answer for Latin America and the rest of the uncommitted world.

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COMMENT: It would come as no surprise if ideologue Hager, when consulted about "Juana," told the opera's sponsors to forget the whole thing. An opera stylizing the Cuban revolution might run the risk of offending the Soviets who regard Castro-communism in a rather poor light.

Albania To Publish Work On Security Organizations

Tirana will shortly publish a book entitled "The Silent Front" dealing with the efforts of the Albanian security organs to penetrate anti-regime organizations both at home and abroad. Appearing in conjunction with the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Albanian state security organs, the book by Mark Dondani concentrates on the late 1940's and the alleged plots by American (CIA) and western intelligence organs to overthrow the communist regime in Albania.

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COMMENT: [redacted] the book appears to be well documented with the names of persons and organizations involved in the reported plots. Dondani is a member of the Sigurmi (the Directorate of the State Security) and in 1966 held the rank of Major.

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Student Demonstrations in East Germany Unlikely

The Mission in Berlin believes that the student unrest in Poland and Czechoslovakia will not spread to East Germany. Ulbricht has addressed himself to the potential problem of student unrest in at least two speeches in past weeks, and regime sponsored meetings to discuss student troubles in neighboring EE countries appear to be keeping the lid on in the GDR.

While the regime is obviously concerned with GDR students, its close attention to the subject and increased emphasis on involving students in state activities and projects seems

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to be meeting with success. This prompted the Mission to conclude that student actions of the type now going on in Poland and Czechoslovakia "can't happen here." [redacted]

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Hungary and Czechoslovakia to Place Tolls on Danube Traffic

The Hungarians and Czechoslovaks have notified the Secretariat of the Danube Commission that they will impose a toll of 14 cents a ton on traffic using the Gabčíkovo-Gonyu stretch of the Danube. Provisions of the Belgrade Danube Commission accords, signed in 1948, allow such non-profit and non-discriminatory tolls on certain areas of the Danube where maintenance costs are extremely high.

Austria seems to be caught in the middle in respect to these tolls. The tolls of course increase shipping costs and, since there are no provisions for tolls on an Austrian section of the Danube, Austrian shipping companies face a net loss of \$280,000 a year under the new toll system. The Austrians are expected to bring up their objections at the current session of the Danube Commission being held in Budapest.

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COMMENT: Such actions could retard Hungary's moving toward its long cherished goal of close economic cooperation in the Danube basin.

Belgrade-Bar Railroad Gets \$50 Million World Bank Loan

The World Bank announced on 22 March a \$50 million loan to help Yugoslavia complete construction of the Belgrade-Bar railroad line. [redacted]

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COMMENT: This is the third loan made by the World Bank to the Yugoslav transport system. When completed in 1972, the line which has been a Serbian dream for 60 years, will run 296 miles connecting Belgrade with the southern Adriatic coast and will represent an investment of \$211 million.

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NOTE: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE REPRESENT
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